

Message Text

SECRET

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 272437

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 18674 ACTION STATE LAGOS INFO DAR ES SALAAM
MAPUTO PRETORIA GABORONE USUN NOV 14.

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 18674

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

LAGOS FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM FROM DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV RH NI

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO OBASANJO

REF: (A) LAGOS 13157, (B) STATE 272034

1. WE ACCEPT MANY OF THE POINTS MADE IYOUR REFTEL
ABOUT THE MEETING WITH OBASANJO. SINCE OUR INSTRUCTION
WAS PREPARED, SPAIN HAS SEEN NYERERE, WHO REAFFIRMED
HIS FIRM SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE.
NYERERE HAD JUST COME FROM A MEETING WITH MACHEL AND
REPORTED THAT MACHEL IS OF THE SAME VIEW. AS A RESULT,
WE CONSIDER IT IS LESS IMPORTANT TO ASK OBASANJO TO
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WEIGH IN WITH NYERERE AT THIS TIME.

2. THIS STILL LEAVES GARBA NERVOUS ABOUT SUPPORTING
OUR INITIATIVE. BELIEVE THIS CAN BE HANDLED THROUGH
THE MEETINGS ANDY AND JIM LEONARD ALREADY HAD WITH HIM.
DAVID OWEN HAS ALSO HAD A STRONG GO AT HIM IN THE SAME
VEIN. NEVERTHELESS, GARBA'S REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH

THE SECRETARY IS VERY IMPORTANT. THEREFORE, HOPE THAT A MEETING HAS NOW BEEN SCHEDULED--I STRONGLY RECOMMEND IT--AND THAT ON THAT OCCASION GARBA WILL BE REASSURED AND STRENGTHENED IN HIS DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE BACKING OUR EFFORTS. AT SAME TIME THE SECRETARY CAN DEAL WITH GARBA ON THE QUESTION WHICH YOU HAVE RAISED ABOUT MECHANICS OF CONTACT WITH OBASANJO.

3. I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT IF YOU SEE OBASANJO ON THE OTHER MATTER, YOU SHOULD HANDLE THE RHODESIAN MATTER AS FOLLOWS:

A) WE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NYERERE FOLLOWING A MEETING HE HAD WITH MACHEL. BOTH ARE FIRM IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS AND SPECIFICALLY FOR HOLDING ELECTIONS PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE.

B) OUR FEELING IS THAT WE MUST PUSH AHEAD VIGOROUSLY SINCE WE NOW HAVE ACHIEVED A BROAD AREA OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMMON GROUND ON THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL.

C) DICK MOOSE IS MEETING WITH BRITISH IN LONDON TO WORK OUT NEXT STEPS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT OUR PLANS AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH YOU AS SOON AS THE SPECIFICS ARE WORKED OUT. WE BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME FOR VIGOROUS AND PROMPT ACTION.

4. AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY BRIEF OBASANJO ON
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KAUNDA'S ACTION AND HIS MEETINGS WITH LORD CARVER.
(FYI: DAVID OWEN GAVE GARBA CHAPTER AND VERSE ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE SAW HIM HERE, INCLUDING FACT THAT NKOMO ALREADY HAD A PLANE RESERVATION TO LEAVE FOR MOSCOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS MEETING WITH CARVER THUS INDICATING THAT HE HAD NO SERIOUS INTENTION OF ENGAGING IN A SERIOUS DIALOGUE.) STREATOR UNQUOTE VANCE

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